so far through various programmes as per follow up action of the recommendations; and

(b) the total expenditure incurred so far on the above programmes?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL): (a) The Report on the Patterns in Indian Agricultural Development has made recommendations for larger investments for providing irrigation facilities, water management, adoption of flood control measures, appropriate water preservation technology through watershed management, development of appropriate dryland technology and strengthening of infrastructure etc.

There has been overall increase in production and productivity of foodgrains during 1988-89 as a result of the implementation of the various development programmes. A Statement giving State-wise details of foodgrains production and productivity in respect of major States is enclosed [*See* Appendix CLII, Annexure No. 17]

(b) Total Central funds released for the three programmes i.e. Special Foodgrains Production Programme, Assistance to Small and Marginal Farmers and National Watershed Development Programme for Rainfed Agriculture during the period 1986-87 to 1989-90 amount to Rs. 505.17 crore.

Claims outstanding under the Crop Insurance Scheme

478. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the amounts of claims under the Crop Insurance Scheme which still remain to be paid to the farmers Statewise; when were these crops a failure;

(b) whether the financial plight of the farmers since, then, was known to Government and the deep resentment prevailing in them (including in Gujarat Farmers) has found expression publicly;

(c) what precautions and preliminary effective steps were taken to avoid delay in payments and the resulting discontentment; and

(d) the corrective measures taken in this regard?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL): (a) The statement of State-wise & Season wise details of indemnity claims which still remain to be paid under the CCIS upto the end of Rabi 1988-89 season is laid on the table of the House [*See* Appendix CLII, Annexure No. 18]

(b) Government is aware that the issue relating to delayed payments of Kharif 1987 claims in respect of Gujarat appeared in the newspapers.

(c) Out of the total claims of Rs. 585.55 crore that were payable under the CCIS up to the end of Rabi 1988-89, claims of the order of Rs. 571.66 crore have already been paid. Only an amount of Rs. 13.89 crore is pending for payment. This amount is also pending to a large extend due to non-receipt of ⅓rd share of the State Governments. Larger budgetary requirements on account of unexpectedly high claims, the procedure involved in verification and settlement of such claims and delayed release of State Government's share, sometimes come in the way of speedy settlement of claims.

(d) State Governments have been advised to send yield data in time and also release their ⅓ share expeditiously to avoid delay.

Casual Employees in the Railways

479. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred question 2706 answered in the Rajya Sabha on the 9th August, 1989 and state:

(a) the total number of casual em-

ployees in the Railways during each of the last 3 years and the current year and also the number of such employees dismissed during the same period;

(b) how many of the dismissed employees were reemployed after sometime; and

(c) whether Government have received representations from Trade Unions regarding the problem of casual employees; if so, what are the Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) The strength of casual labour on Railways during the last four years is as under:—

(in lakhs)

As on			
1.4.86	1.4.87	1.4.88	1.4.89
2.16	2.05	2.02	1.92

(Figures are approximate)

Presumably reference is to cases of retrenchment of casual labour for want of work and their re-engagement on reavailability of work. Information in this regard, excluding those casual labour who are engaged only for a limited period for seasonal work like monsoon patrolling, summer watermen etc., for the years 1985-86, 1986-87, 1987-88 and 1988-89, is being collected from the Railway Administrations and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(c) Yes, Sir. The main demands are that all casual labour should be absorbed in regular employment, retirement benefits should be made available to casual labour in full and the benefit of Group Insurance Scheme should also be given to casual labour.

The position in regard to these demands is that casual labour continue to be absorbed in regular employment against normal vacancies arising from time to time depending upon eligibility and suitability. In addition, about 52,000 posts have been created under the decasualisation Scheme to absorb casual labour. It is, however, not possible to absorb all casual labour straightway regardless of availability of vacancies and other relevant considerations.

Casual labour are entitled to pensionary benefits on absorption in regular employment whereafter half the period of employment after attaining temporary status is reckoned for pensionary benefits. It has not been found feasible to liberalise these provisions.

The Group Insurance Scheme for Central Government Employees is applicable only to employees in regular employment. It does not apply to casual labour.

Effect of Jawahar Rozgar Yojana

480. SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the programme for which financial assistance has been sanctioned through the Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology so far;

(b) the number of voluntary organisations which have received such assistance State-wise, programme-wise, so far, and also the amount so sanctioned;

(c) the outcome of the above programmes State-wise; and

(d) in what manner to what extent, financially or otherwise, the Jawahar Rojgar Yojana has affected the above programmes; State-wise?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL): (a) The programmes which are sanctioned through Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology (CAPART) are indicated in the statement (*See* below).

(b) CAPART has been set up with effect from 1.9.1986. A statement giving the number of voluntary organisations and the financial assistance